



Docket No.: P/1071-1107

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

ANDO, et al.

Serial No.: 09/636,500

Filed: August 11, 2000

For: PIEZOELECTRIC ELEMENT

New York, New York

Date: March 4, 2002

Group Art Unit: 2834

Examiner: P. Medley

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

Asst. Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated October 4, 2001, please amend the above-identified U.S. application to be as follows:

In the Claims:

Please amend claims as follows:

- Amended 1. A piezoelectric element comprising:
- a plurality of piezoelectric layers comprising a piezoelectric material which is a bismuth-based ceramic comprising Sr, Bi, Ti, and O;
 - at least three vibration electrodes opposing each other, each disposed among the piezoelectric layers, and
 - an energy-confining region formed in a region in which the vibration electrodes overlap and exciting an n-order longitudinal thickness vibration;
 - wherein the maximum length L of a secant between two intersections on the